

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A patient support comprising a frame,
a mattress positioned over the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a linkage assembly configured to rotate about an axis of rotation to permit movement of the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on the mattress and a lowered position permitting egress, the linkage assembly having a longitudinal axis deviating from being perpendicular to and deviating from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all times during movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position.

25. (Original) The patient support of claim 24, wherein a longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the raised position is collinear with the longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the lowered position.

26. (Previously Presented)) The patient support of claim 24, wherein the linkage assembly rotates about an axis of rotation that deviates from being perpendicular to and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all times during movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented)) The patient support of claim 24, wherein the axis of rotation has a component that is vertical and a component that is horizontal when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

29. (Original) The patient support of claim 24, wherein the linkage assembly is configured to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction during all downward movement of the rail member from the raised to lowered position.

30. (Original) The patient support of claim 29, wherein the linkage assembly is configured to move the rail member in a second longitudinal direction during all upward movement of the rail member from the lowered position to

the raised position, the second longitudinal direction is opposite the first longitudinal direction.

31. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member and a coupler configured to couple
the rail member to the frame, the rail member having a longitudinal axis, the coupler
being configured to rotate the rail member about an axis of rotation from a raised
position to a lowered position, the axis of rotation deviating from being perpendicular
and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all
times during rotation of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered
position, the axis of rotation defining a plane that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of
the rail member.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 31, wherein A~~
patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member and a coupler configured to couple
the rail member to the frame, the rail member having a longitudinal axis, the coupler
being configured to rotate the rail member about an axis of rotation from a raised
position to a lowered position, the axis of rotation deviating from being perpendicular
and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all
times during rotation of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered
position, the coupler includes including a linkage assembly having a longitudinal
axis, the longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the
raised position is collinear with the longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when
the rail member is in the lowered position.

33. (Original) The patient support of claim 31, wherein the axis
of rotation of the rail member deviates from being horizontal when the mattress is in
a flat bed position.

34. (Original) The patient support of claim 31, wherein the axis
of rotation of the rail member includes a horizontal component and a vertical
component.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 31,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member and a coupler configured to couple
the rail member to the frame, the rail member having a longitudinal axis, the coupler
being configured to rotate the rail member about an axis of rotation from a raised
position to a lowered position, the axis of rotation deviating from being perpendicular
and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all
times during rotation of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered
position, ~~the coupler is being~~ configured to move the rail member in a first
longitudinal direction during all downward movement of the rail member from the
raised position to the lowered position.

36. (Currently Amended) The patient support of claim ~~34~~ 35,
wherein the coupler is configured to move the rail member in a second longitudinal
direction during all upward movement of the rail member from the lowered position to
the raised position, the second longitudinal direction being opposite the ~~second~~ first
longitudinal direction.

37. (Original) The patient support of claim 31, wherein the
coupler is configured to move the rail member sideways away from the mattress and
longitudinally during movement of the rail member to the lowered position.

38. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position permitting egress, the coupler being configured
to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction during all downward
movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position, and
movement of the rail member changes a distance between the rail member and the
mattress.

39. (Original) The patient support of claim 38, wherein the
coupler is configured to move the rail member in a second longitudinal direction

during all upward movement of the rail member from the lowered position to the raised position, the second longitudinal direction is opposite the first longitudinal direction.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 38,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position permitting egress, the coupler being configured
to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction during all downward
movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position, the
coupler is being configured to move the rail member sideways away from the
mattress and longitudinally during movement of the rail member to the lowered
position.

41. (Original) The patient support of claim 38, wherein the coupler includes a linkage assembly including a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the raised position is collinear with the longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the lowered position.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 38,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position permitting egress, the coupler being configured
to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction during all downward
movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position, the
coupler rotates rotating the rail member about an axis of rotation that deviates from
being perpendicular and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the

rail member at all times during movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 38,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position permitting egress, the coupler being configured
to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction during all downward
movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position, the
coupler ~~rotates~~ rotating the rail member about an axis of rotation that deviates from
being horizontal.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 38,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position permitting egress, the coupler being configured
to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction during all downward
movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position, the rail
member ~~rotates~~ rotating about an axis of rotation that has a horizontal component
and vertical component when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

45. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress positioned over the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to permit movement of the rail member between a raised position
blocking egress of a patient positioned on the mattress and a lowered position
permitting egress, the coupler being configured to move the rail member in a first
longitudinal direction during lowering of the rail member to the lowered position

without moving in a second longitudinal direction opposite the first longitudinal direction, the coupler being configured to move the rail member sideways away from the ~~rail member~~ mattress during lowering of the rail member.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Original) The patient support of claim 45, wherein the rail member rotates about an axis of rotation that deviates from being perpendicular and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all times during movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position.

48. (Original) The patient support of claim 45, wherein the rail member rotates about an axis of rotation that deviates from being horizontal when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

49. (Original) The patient support of claim 45, wherein the coupler is configured to move the rail member in the second longitudinal direction during raising of the rail member to the raised position without moving in the first longitudinal direction.

50. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress positioned over the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and to permit movement of the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on the mattress and a lowered position, the coupler being configured to move the rail member in a longitudinal direction and a sideways direction away from the mattress during movement of the rail member between the raised and lowered positions, the lowered position placing the rail member outside a footprint of the frame.

51. (Original) The patient support of claim 50, wherein the rail member rotates about an axis of rotation during movement between the raised and lowered position and the axis of rotation has a longitudinal component.

52. (Original) The patient support of claim 51, wherein the axis of rotation has a horizontal component.

53. (Original) The patient support of claim 50, wherein the coupler includes a set of cam members that interact during movement of the rail member between the raised and lowered positions to move the rail member in the longitudinal direction.

54. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 50,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress positioned over the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and to permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position, the coupler being configured to move the rail
member in a longitudinal direction and a sideways direction away from the mattress
during movement of the rail member between the raised and lowered positions, the
coupler is being configured to move the rail member in a first longitudinal direction
during all downward movement of the rail member from the raised to lowered
position.

55. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 50,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress positioned over the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and to permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position, the coupler being configured to move the rail
member in a longitudinal direction and a sideways direction away from the mattress
during movement of the rail member between the raised and lowered positions, the
coupler includes including a 4-bar linkage assembly.

56. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 50,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress positioned over the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member having a longitudinal axis and a
coupler configured to couple the rail member to the frame and to permit movement of
the rail member between a raised position blocking egress of a patient positioned on
the mattress and a lowered position, the coupler being configured to move the rail
member in a longitudinal direction and a sideways direction away from the mattress
during movement of the rail member between the raised and lowered positions, a

longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the raised position ~~is being~~ collinear with the longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly when the rail member is in the lowered position.

57. (Original) The patient support of claim 50, wherein the linkage assembly rotates about an axis of rotation that deviates from being perpendicular to and deviates from being parallel with the longitudinal axis of the rail member at all times during movement of the rail member from the raised position to the lowered position.

58. (Original) The patient support of claim 50, wherein the linkage assembly rotates about an axis of rotation that deviates from being horizontal when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

59. (Original) The patient support of claim 58, wherein the axis of rotation has a component that is vertical and a component that is horizontal when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

60. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member and a coupler configured to permit rotation of the rail member about an axis of rotation between a raised position and a lowered position, the axis of rotation deviating from being horizontal when the mattress is in a flat bed position, and the axis of rotation defining a plane parallel to a plane defined by a side of the patient support.

61. (Original) The patient support of claim 60, wherein the rail member includes a longitudinal axis and the rail member moves in a longitudinal direction when moved between the raised and lowered positions.

62. (Original) The patient support of claim 61, wherein rail member moves sideways away from the mattress when moved between the raised and lowered positions.

63. (Original) The patient support of claim 60, wherein the rail member includes a longitudinal axis that deviates from being parallel with the axis of rotation.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~The patient support of claim 63,~~
~~wherein~~ A patient support comprising
a frame,

a mattress supported by the frame, and
a siderail including a rail member and a coupler configured to permit
rotation of the rail member about an axis of rotation between a raised position and a
lowered position, the axis of rotation deviating from being horizontal when the
mattress is in a flat bed position, the rail member including a longitudinal axis that
deviates from being parallel with the axis of rotation, the coupler ~~includes~~ including a
4-bar linkage assembly.

65. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising
a frame,
a mattress supported by the frame,
a siderail comprising a rail member having a first longitudinal axis and
a linkage assembly configured to support the rail member on the frame, the linkage
assembly having a second longitudinal axis and being configured to permit rotation
of the rail member about an axis of rotation, the axis of rotation and the second
longitudinal axis of the link assembly having a longitudinal component relative to the
first longitudinal axis, and the axis of rotation failing to include a sideways
component.

66. (Original) The patient support of claim 65, wherein the axis
of rotation has a vertical and horizontal component when the mattress is in a flat bed
position.

67. (Original) The patient support of claim 65, wherein the axis
of rotation deviates from being horizontal when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

68. (Original) The patient support of claim 65, wherein the
second longitudinal axis of the linkage assembly includes vertical and horizontal
components when the mattress is in a flat bed position.

69. (Original) The patient support of claim 68, wherein the rail
member moves sideways away from the mattress and longitudinally when moved to
the lowered position.